

## Trainer

## About Bridge Builders



Jo Williams helps to lead our Mediating Inter-personal Conflicts course. She is a Baptist minister with a conflict transformation portfolio in the Baptist Union, and is also a community mediator in North West England. Jo has extensive experience of training others in mediation and Christian ministry. She lives in Burnley.



Bridge Builders seeks to transform the culture of the church in relation to how leaders lead and the way conflict is handled. We aim to strengthen the ministry of Christian leaders, by helping them to be more self-aware, and to develop greater skills, confidence and resilience for working with tensions and conflict in the church.

Bridge Builders offers a range of training courses and workshops, and leads tailored learning events on request. In addition we provide coaching, consultancy and mediation services.

Find out more at [www.bbministries.org.uk](http://www.bbministries.org.uk)

### Quotes from past workshop participants

Lots of humour –  
not too intense.

Enjoyable as well  
as helpful.

Such a valuable day –  
ministers are crying out  
for this sort of support.

Very thought-through  
presentation, and appropriate  
to the audience.

*'Bridge Builders' is a working name  
of Bridge Builders Ministries.*

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# Handling Tension in Church Life

**A workshop training day for  
people in church leadership**

**Saturday 21 October 2017**

**Priory Street Centre, York**

**9.30–4.30**

**Transforming church culture**  
The way leaders lead and how conflict is handled

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## A practical challenge

Tension in church life can be sparked by many different things: personality clashes, changes in buildings or patterns of worship, unexpected crisis events, unpopular decisions by the leadership, arguments about doctrine, disreputable behaviour – to name just some.

And the overall level of tension can be anything from quite low (e.g. minor disagreements between one or two individuals) to crippling high (e.g. warring factions, with significant numbers leaving).

But in every case the crucial factor is the way people (especially leaders) *respond* to the element of conflict. That's what determines whether things move in the direction of forgiveness and reconciliation or of blame and hostility.

Jesus' words "Blessed are the peace-makers" sound wonderful in theory, but they can be very demanding to put into practice .....

## Want to be better equipped?

Bridge Builders specialises in practically-focused training, grounded in the example and teaching of Jesus. This workshop is designed for people who are part of a church's leadership group (e.g. a staff team, ministry team, eldership, diaconate, church council). It will be especially helpful if several from a leadership group come together.

## Programme

Running from 9.30 to 4.30, the programme includes worship, teaching, and hands-on skills training.

Learn more about:

- Your own conflict style - its strengths and limitations
- Improving communication when emotions run high
- Helping a church learn more constructive patterns of behaviour in the face of tension
- Hanging onto hope in trying circumstances

## Cost

£75 per person or £60 per person for group bookings of 4 or more tickets.

This includes training materials, refreshments and a simple buffet lunch.

## Venue

The Priory Street Centre  
15 Priory Street  
York YO1 6ET  
[www.priorystreetcentre.co.uk](http://www.priorystreetcentre.co.uk)



The Centre is within easy walking distance of York's railway station. Parking is limited on site, but there is a good Park & Ride service, and an NCP car-park nearby.

## How to Book

Please complete the online form at [www.bbministries.org.uk](http://www.bbministries.org.uk) (under Training/Workshops) and then pay the fee, to secure a place. For group bookings of 4 or more, please contact the office—details opposite.

Cancellations before Wednesday, 11 October 2017 will receive a 50% refund. Thereafter no refund will be provided.

Full contact details for Bridge Builders are on the back panel.

